- Stock registers should correctly record each receipt, issue and balance of blank travel documents. Physical verification of stock should be conducted as per codal provisions and the discrepancies promptly investigated to rule out any pilferage.

Eighth World Hindi Conference

1902. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eighth 'Vishwa Hindi Sammelan' was organized in United Nation's headquarters in New York on 13th July, 2007;

(b) if so, the subjects which were discussed in this Sammelan;

(c) whether this matter was also discussed with Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Vardha, which has been organizing such conferences till now; and

(d) the efforts made to ensure that officials of our High Commissions and Embassies can interact in Hindi with Indians and people of Indian Origin living abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The 8th World Hindi Conference was held from 13-15 July, 2007 in New York. Its inaugural session was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on July 13, 2007.

(b) 9 Academic Sessions were held during the 8th World Hindi Conference on the following subjects:

(i) Hindi in the United Nations Organization

(ii) Teaching of Hindi in India and Abroad – Problems and Solutions

(iii) Globalization, Media and Hindi

(iv) Hindi writing abroad – Pravasi Hindi Sahitya

(v) Role of Information Technology in Promotion of Hindi

(vi) Role of Hindi films in Propagation of Hindi

(vii) Hindi, Youth and Science

(viii) Hindi Language and Literature – Various Dimensions

(ix) Role of Translation in Literature, Hindi Children Literature, Devnagri Script

(c) Chairman of Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha was closely associated with the organization of the conference. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the 8th World Hindi Conference and was also a member of the sub-committee which was constituted by Minister of State for External Affairs for recommending the venue of the 8th World Hindi Conference. He was, in addition, a member of the sub-committee constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs for drafting the Declaration of the 8th World Hindi Conference.

(d) Officers in the Ministry of External Affairs as well as officers in Indian Missions abroad are advised from time to time to make increasing use of Hindi in their official work. As far as possible, Hindi is used by them in their conversation with people of Indian origin and Indians living abroad.

Draw backs of river cleaning programmes

†1903. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the efforts initiated for cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna river proved futile;

(b) if not, the extent of shortfall in pollution level of these rivers as a result of the efforts made for their cleaning during the last ten years;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any scheme to review the drawbacks of cleaning programmes of these rivers and to reform them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government of India initiated the river conservation efforts by launching the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985, taking up the pollution abatement works in the identified polluted stretches of the river. This Phase was declared completed in March, 2000 with the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 869 million litres per day (mld). Since GAP Phase-I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, GAP Phase-II including the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. A total of sewage treatment capacity of 1747 mld has been created for Ganga and its tributaries.

With the pollution abatement works completed so far in both the phases under GAP, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions of the country. A statement indicating the improvement in the water quality of the river between the years 1986 and 2006 is given in the Statement (*See* bleow).

As regards Yamuna, the quality of river water has not shown the desired improvement owing to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity particularly in Delhi, and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river.

Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever-increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.